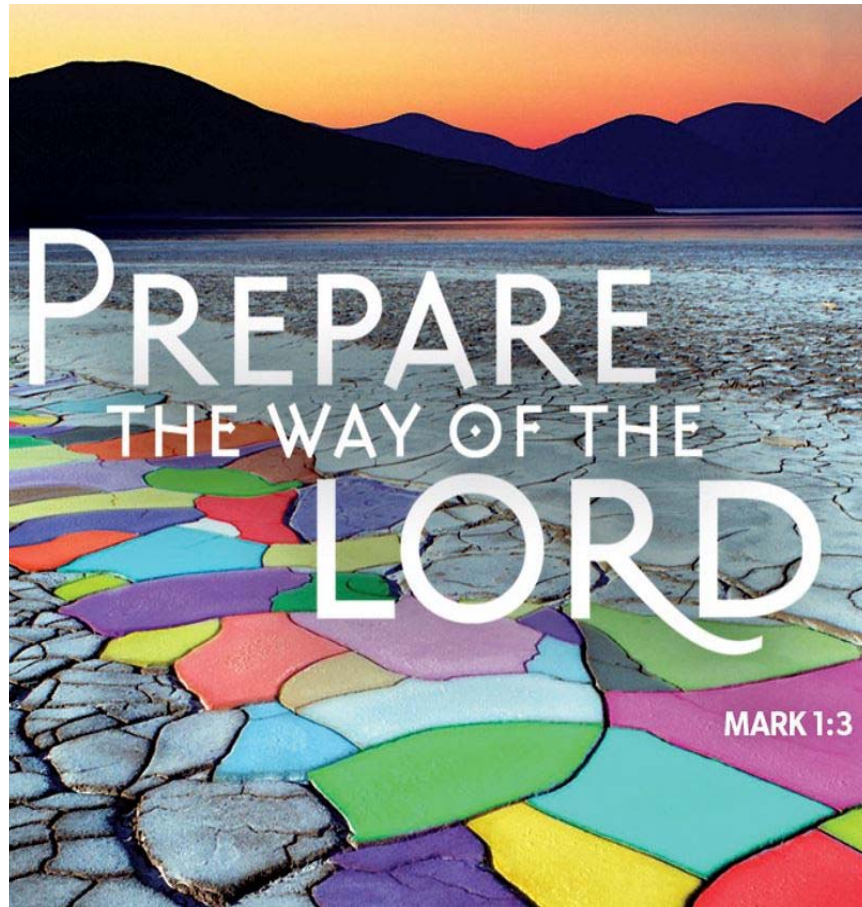


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Second Sunday In Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2023 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

10 West 31st Street Savannah, Georgia 31401 (912) 233-8895

Sunday, December 10, 2023
The Second Sunday In Advent

Welcome & Announcements

Piano Prelude

“I Wonder as I Wander” arr. Mark Hayes

Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Most merciful God,

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+

Opening Hymn

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry #36

On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

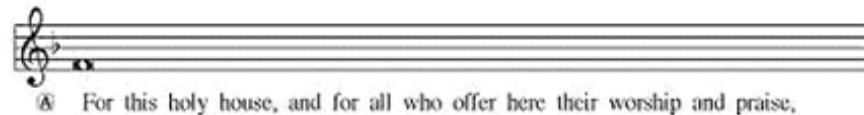
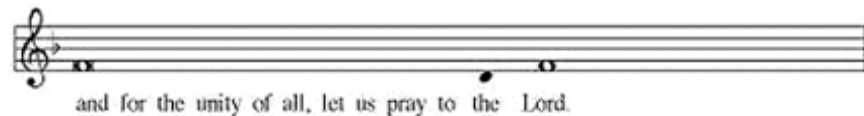
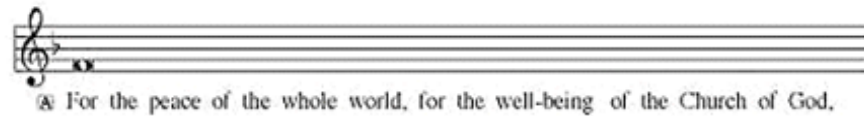
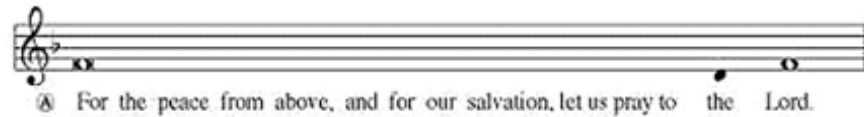
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

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P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C And also with you.

The Kyrie



The Prayer of The Day

The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Recognition of Birthdays & The Children's Sermon

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Chancel Choir Anthem

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Peter J. Hartmann

The Sermon Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Now My People #29

“Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim
that God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald’s voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God’s word is never broken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.

The Apostles' Creed

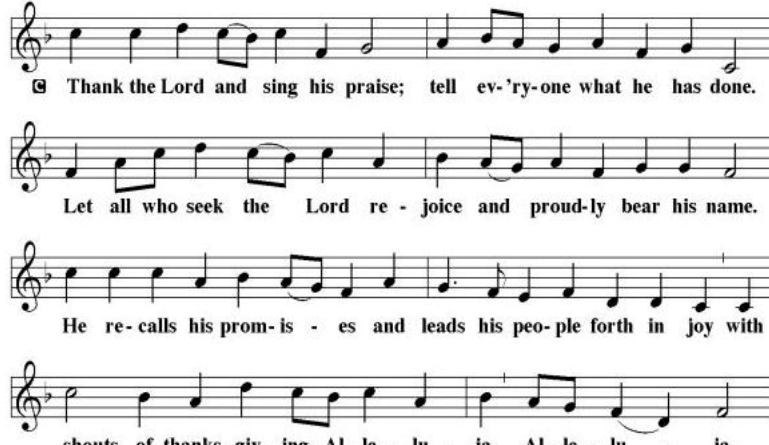
- + I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen**

The Prayers of The Church The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Words of Institution & The Communion

- P** The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C 

☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.


Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Benediction

- P** The Lord Bless You & Keep You, The Lord Make His Face Shine on you and Be Gracious to You, The Lord Look Upon You with Favor, and Give You Peace.

C 

A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

The Closing Hymn

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The First Noel #56

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional

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P/C Go In Peace! Serve The Lord! / **Thanks Be To God!**

Organ Postlude

Rebecca McClain

“The First Noel”

arr. James Mansfield

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**We Welcome You to
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church...**

Whether you are a long time member, friend at St. Paul's, or here for the first time, we are glad you are with us in worship today! If you are in need of pastoral care, please give us a call. If you will be entering the hospital or preparing for any surgical procedures, please let the Pastor know so he can plan to visit and have prayer with you during this time. Thank you for checking the "prayer list" posted in the bulletin today and for helping us to keep this list current by notifying the office with any updates. All are welcome to partake in The Communion during the service. After The Consecration, come forward as able to receive the Blessing and The Body & Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ and then return to your pew to complete the service.

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We Remember in Our Prayers...

Kevin Boatright, Ronnie & Delores Boatright, Angie Briggs, Florence Brown, Tom Brown, Jean Camp, Mike Hatfill, Don Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Dottie Kraft, Ann Lariscy, Lamar Linton, George Martin Sr., Joan Martin, Leonora Reid, Al Schunemann, Kay Sellman, Isabelle Sherouse, Mary Sikes, Charlie Smith, Barbara & Tim Tyson, and Melissa Waller.

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Current Budgetary Needs Each Sunday From 2023 Offerings
\$8,600.00

Received From Current Offerings Last Week

Offering \$ 12,480.00 E-Giving \$ 40.00

Christmas Angels - \$11,410.00

Worship Statistics Last Week In Person & At Home

8:30 am - 37 11:00 am - 53 Facebook - 55

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W E L C A

DECEMBER COLLECTIONS ...

Household Items, monetary donations and baby supplies
for "Shelter from the Rain", a service for
Single Mother Assistance...

\$20 Generic Gift Cards or WalMart Gift Cards for
"Park Place Outreach" - A shelter for homeless older teens...

Our Worship Leaders & Staff...

Senior Pastor... The Rev. Peter J. Hartmann
Director of Music & CFO ... Donald R. Martin, Jr.
Senior Organist ... Rebecca T. McClain
Office Administrator ... Fran Snipes
“The Epistle” ... Betsy Martin
Facebook Live Broadcasting... Lisa B. Martin
Chancel Choir Soprano Section Leader ... Melissa Flummerfelt
Chancel Choir Tenor Section Leader ... Carl Lettow
Chancel Choir Bass Section Leader ... Anthony Broadnax
Pre-School Director ... Gina Johnson
Assistant Pre-School Director ... Cynthia Thomas
Parish Housekeeping ... April Reilly

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Our Lectors Today

8:30 Emma Levy 11:00 Chuck McCallar

December Altar Guild

8:30 Natasha Smith
11:00 Lisa Neville & Donna Wall

Liturgical Service Cantors

Melissa Flummerfelt, Emma Levy, Carol Stemsrud

Communion Assistants

8:30 Chris & Kim Conway
11:00 Toni Hadden & Richard Wolf

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Advent Season at St. Paul's

Sunday, December 10th

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle - 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Tri-Church Christmas Festival - 4PM
Reception at the Greek Church Hellenic Center - 5PM

Wednesday, December 13th

Third Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

Sunday December 17th

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle - 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Christmas Caroling - 2:30 PM - 6:30 - See Donald to Signup

Wednesday, December 20th

Fourth Wednesday in Advent - Midday Service - 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24th

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle - 10:00 AM
One 10 AM Service - Sunday School Christmas Play

Two Evening Services

Candlelight Communion Services
w/ Choirs, Violin, Organ & Brass - 6:30 PM & 10:00 PM

New Year's Eve, Sunday December 31st

One Service of Lessons & Carols
Worship w/ our Chancel Choir - 10:00 AM

